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## **SCHUMER SAYS PEACEFUL PROTESTORS WERE HIS TARGET**

*Senator admits bankruptcy amendment is designed to stop  
pro-life activists from protesting “in a peaceful way”*

**Washington**—Senator Chuck Schumer admitted Wednesday that the language of his amendment to the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act conference report was written to target peaceful pro-life protestors. During a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Wednesday, he said the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act was written to keep pro-life activists from protesting “in a peaceful way.” The language of his amendment to the bankruptcy conference report is identical in substance to the FACE Act.

During questioning of judicial nominee Michael McConnell, Senator Schumer said:

**“They’d pay their fine and go back and stand in front of the clinic again. And they’d pay their fine and go back and stand in front of the clinic again. And they’d pay their fine and go back and stand--. They were taking the law into their own hands--in a peaceful way, but a very serious way that led us to write the law. That is why the FACE law mandated not fifty-dollar fines [but large ones instead].”**

“This is the smoking gun,” said Congressman Pitts. “I’ve contended all along that Senator Schumer was really out to stop peaceful protests. Now he’s said it himself. We need bankruptcy reform. But not the kind that discriminates against people for what they believe.”

The Congressman pointed out that during the Civil Rights Movement, sit-in protestors were sometimes arrested and penalized as many as 40 times. He said, “The only difference here is that Senator Schumer agrees with one group and not the other.”

An audio file of Senator Schumer’s statement can be heard in the All Things Considered archive for September 18, 2002 at [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) in a story titled “Federal Appeals Court Nominee.”

A side-by-side comparison of the FACE Act and the Schumer Amendment to the bankruptcy reform conference report can be seen at [www.house.gov/pitts/press.htm](http://www.house.gov/pitts/press.htm).